

Red Fire Hits Saigon On Ho's 78th Birthday

Enemy Rockets Blast Many Downtown Areas

SAIGON (AP) — Enemy rockets and mortars blasted downtown Saigon early today, the 78th birthday of North Vietnam's President Ho Chi Minh. Fires broke out, raising great clouds of smoke over the capital.

One rocket landed near Independence Palace, seat of South Vietnam's government, and another near the new U.S. Embassy.

Neither building was reported damaged. One big fire burned out a square block of homes and shops.

No Yanks Killed

The U.S. Command said no Americans were killed and only "a very small number" wounded. First reports put Vietnamese casualties at six killed, 27 wounded. Three of those

killed were policemen.

Besides Saigon, enemy shells hit four other places across the country.

There were no reports of enemy ground assaults after the shelling of the capital. A barrage two weeks ago was followed by several days of fighting, mostly in the Chinese sector of the city and on its outskirts. Still heavier fighting fol-

lowed the Viet Cong's lunar new year shelling of Saigon and other targets at the end of January.

Most of the shells slammed into Saigon between 1 and 2 a.m. Six hours later, another blast rocked the dock area.

Another shelling shortly after 8 a.m. dropped three more rounds into the heart of the capital. One hit near the premier's office, wounding one civilian. A second fell without effect near the My Canh floating restaurant on Saigon's waterfront, blasted by mines in 1965 in one of the city's costliest terrorist incidents. The third started a fire in a police precinct in the Chinese section.

Rockets landed in or near three U.S. enlisted men's billets, an American military police motor pool compound and a psychological warfare operations compound. Also hit were a Vietnamese newspaper office, a primary school, the Vietnamese Senate office, the main building of the U.S. Agency for International Development—USAID—and the old U.S. Embassy, which is used as an office building.

Minor damage was reported at USAID building and the old embassy.

Hit Military Post

Viet Cong gunners also bombarded a Vietnamese military post two miles east of the capital, inflicting heavy casualties on a platoon of popular force

troops, a military spokesman said.

In other shellings, enemy forces pumped 10 artillery rounds into a refugee center near Gio Linh, just below the demilitarized zone. Several hamlets north of Saigon were also hit.

The Saigon attack was not unexpected. The South Vietnamese Joint General Staff had reported receiving information that the enemy would salute Ho's birthday with widespread attacks on Saigon and other cities and military bases.

Thousands of Saigon residents, awakened by the exploding rockets, gathered on terraces and roofs to watch the flames.

American planes dropped flares over the city's outskirts in efforts to pinpoint the attackers.

Within 30 minutes after the rocket attack, the sound of artillery fire increased along the edges of the city. It apparently was South Vietnamese army artillery firing at suspected enemy troop movements or weapons positions. Although this type of firing is normal, the level picked up following the enemy shelling.

South Vietnam's armed forces have been on a 100 per cent alert for weeks. Massive sweep operations have been going on in the areas surrounding the capital in an effort to thwart any new enemy drives.

Pick New S. Viet Premier; Cabinet May Be More Receptive to Paris Talks

SAIGON (AP) — Tran Van Huong, a political veteran esteemed by U.S. officials for his honesty, was appointed premier yesterday to head a cabinet that may be more receptive to the Paris peace talks.

Huong was the choice of President Nguyen Van Thieu and was opposed by Vice President Nguyen Cao Ky, who is against the U.S. policy of trying to end the war by negotiation and compromise.

Sees 'Grave Danger'

The outgoing premier, Nguyen Van Loc, is an associate of Ky and used his resignation to declare that South Vietnam faces "grave danger" from the U.S.-North Vietnamese talks now going on in Paris.

Huong, by contrast, is believed to be wholeheartedly in favor of the negotiations in the French capital.

The change in premiers did nothing to heal the rift between Ky and Thieu, who expressing apprehension about negotiating with the Communists went a-



Loc

Huong

long with the decision for the Paris meeting.

Ky was the only government leader absent from the hurriedly summoned cabinet meeting where Loc's resignation was accepted. He flew off to Nha Trang, 200 miles northeast of Saigon, a main base of the South Vietnamese Air Force, known to be loyal to him. Ky could not be reached for comment.

Various sources in Paris saw the shakeup in Saigon as evidence of instability that would have an adverse effect upon the U.S. negotiators. They appar-

ently were apprehensive of the Thieu-Ky rivalry.

Diplomatic sources in Saigon conceded that Thieu and Huong may run into difficulties putting together a cabinet acceptable to the military leaders who hold most of the effective power.

Seek Greater Stability

They emphasized, however, that what was being sought was a government of greater stability. They said Huong, a former premier, will try to replace Loc's cabinet of technicians with one that will embrace most political parties in a bid for popular support.

The whole trend of Huong's policy seemed turned toward the prospect of a negotiated peace and away from the all-out war-until-victory long urged by Ky and his friends. For this, Huong has strong backing from the U.S. Mission.

Whether Huong will be able to carry through with such a policy may depend largely on the support he can get from military leaders.

Angry Accusations Fly in Talks; Resume Wednesday

PARIS (AP) — In their longest meeting yet, chief envoys of the United States and North Vietnam angrily accused each other yesterday of deliberately sidestepping the basic issues in their talks aimed at ending the fighting in Vietnam.

Neither side reported the slightest progress after the four-hour meeting. The discussions were recessed until Wednesday at the request of U.S. Ambassador W. Averell Harriman.

Harriman, in a toughly worded statement, demanded that North Vietnam acknowledge it has combat troops in the South. This is a "question of establishing some basis from which we can properly consider your demand for the cessation of our bombing," he said.

Repeats Demand

North Vietnamese Ambassador Xuan Thuy not only refused to budge on this, but repeated his own demand that all bombing of the North cease without any conditions, apparently a

suggestion that there could be no agreement otherwise on any question.

"In order that these official conversations concluded with results, the American side must rapidly give a positive response on this subject," Thuy said. "It must not be elusive much longer."

Patience Wearing Thin

Both sides at the negotiating table have displayed patience in these talks, but the signs now were that patience was wearing thin.

Harriman, for example, told Thuy he was "particularly astounded you should seek to evade acknowledgment of a simple and utterly verified fact," referring to the role of North Vietnamese army regulars in South Vietnam.

The North Vietnamese even hinted that the conference might break on the issue of the bombing. A North Vietnamese

See TALKS

Continued on page 2, col. 5

De Gaulle Rushes Home Amid Grave Crisis in France

(Picture on Page 12)

PARIS (AP) — President Charles de Gaulle cut short a state visit to Romania yesterday and returned to a France seething with the gravest social and industrial crisis of his 10 years in office.

Paralyzing strikes and social upheaval gripped railroads, air and bus transport, postal and telecommunications, nearly every branch of private and state-owned industry and the intellectual elite of the nation. One big union called for a bank strike and police were pressing for more money.

Caught up in the revolution-

ary ferment, some of the 77-year-old general's political followers showed signs of deserting him.

De Gaulle rushed back from Bucharest 14 hours ahead of schedule and was greeted at Orly airport, where a strike had heavily curtailed operations, by Premier Georges Pompidou. The general, smiling and tanned, made no statement on how he intended to deal with the crisis.

Pompidou had been holding repeated meetings in de-

See FRANCE

Continued on page 2, col. 7



(Courier Photo by Jim Humphrey)

'NEVER AGAIN' — "If I live another 20 years," Mrs. Olive Bogart commented yesterday, "I never want to go through anything like this again." Mrs. Bogart is 70 years old and survived Wednesday's tornado at Charles City's Cedar Terrace Elderly Housing complex. She's now sleeping at St. John's Lutheran

Church, which is the Red Cross disaster headquarters at Charles City. Mrs. Bogart plans to move in with her granddaughters, Mrs. Nola Vosburg at 207 Huelan, Charles City as soon as Miss Vosburg's furnace is back in operation. For more scenes from disaster headquarters, see full page of Courier pictures on page 19.

Devastated Cities Work at Recovery

Tornado Aid Task Force Established

(Other Tornado Stories
Pages 11, 19, 24, 25)

Northeast Iowa cities paralyzed by tornadoes Wednesday are today making a dogged march up the road to recovery from the disaster that left 18 dead, more than 600 injured and an estimated \$40 million damage.

Volunteers, law enforcement and other public agencies from area cities, along with National Guardsmen, the Red Cross, the Salvation Army, and hundreds of utility employees have joined residents of stricken communities to help rebuild their shattered lives.

Disaster Task Force

Meanwhile, a state-wide Disaster Aid Task Force to assemble and coordinate aid for tornado-stricken Charles City, Oelwein and Maynard was established yesterday by the League of Iowa Municipalities.

Mayor Lloyd Turner of Waterloo, former Black Hawk County civil defense director, was named task force chairman, it was announced by Titonka Mayor Harold Gartner, league president.

Other members of the task force include Mayors William McKinley of Cedar Falls; Elgin G. Enabnit of Osage; George

Mendon of Mason City; Floyd Brosher of Belmond; M. Sylvester McCauley of Dubuque and Frank Bosh of Cedar Rapids.

It will take years to completely rebuild the three communities hit hardest by the wave of tornadoes that lashed northeast Iowa last week.

A Start Made

But a start has been made with utilities being restored at Charles City, Oelwein and

Maynard as workmen dug into rubble with heavy equipment and bare hands.

Iowa Public Service Co. reported yesterday it had completed restoration of gas and electric service in Charles City, where 14 died, to every home and building except those in severely damaged areas.

The company reported service should be restored to every home and building capable of receiving service by today as some 300 IPS employees and 140 vehicles continued around-the-clock work.

New Office Site

A temporary IPS office has been set up in the L Street plant of Salisbury Laboratories at Charles City as its downtown office was demolished by the twister.

City officials in Oelwein, Charles City and Maynard repeated their plea asking visitors and curious to stay away from the towns so cleanup work can continue without being bogged down in traffic.

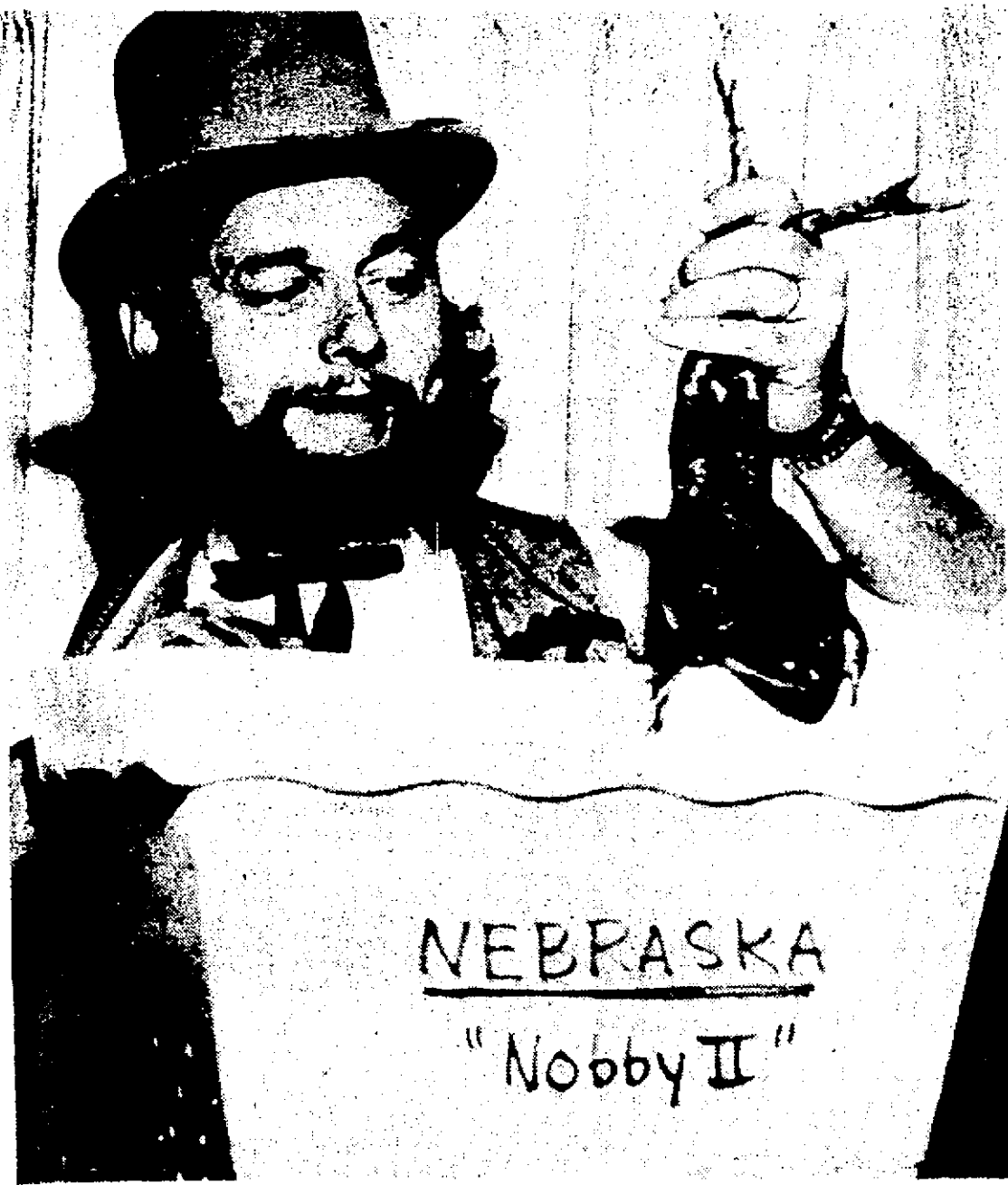
At Oelwein where two died, one of a heart attack immediately following the storm, Mayor Sam Mazzotti declared, "This town will come back. I'm going to urge all businessmen to rebuild."

Floyd County Sheriff L. L. Lane at Charles City said, "This is too solid a community to be permanently disrupted."

School officials are planning for the remaining three weeks

See CITIES

Continued on page 2, col. 1



Leggy Contestant

Vrie T. Minto, Mayor of Frogtown, hefts the Nebraska entry on its arrival for the annual International Jumping Frog Jubilee at the Sierra foothill town of Angels Camp, Calif. Finals of the event take place today. Entries

are shipped from many parts of the United States for participation in the contest that harks back to author Mark Twain and his famous story of "The Celebrated Jumping Frog of Calaveras County."

(Associated Press Photo)

Waterloo Welcomes Iowa Master Barbers and Beauticians

(Story on page 16)